

Lost time injury (LTI) to leg

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A Member has reported an incident in which a sub-contractor's employee suffered a leg injury which was categorised as a lost time injury (LTI).

What happened?

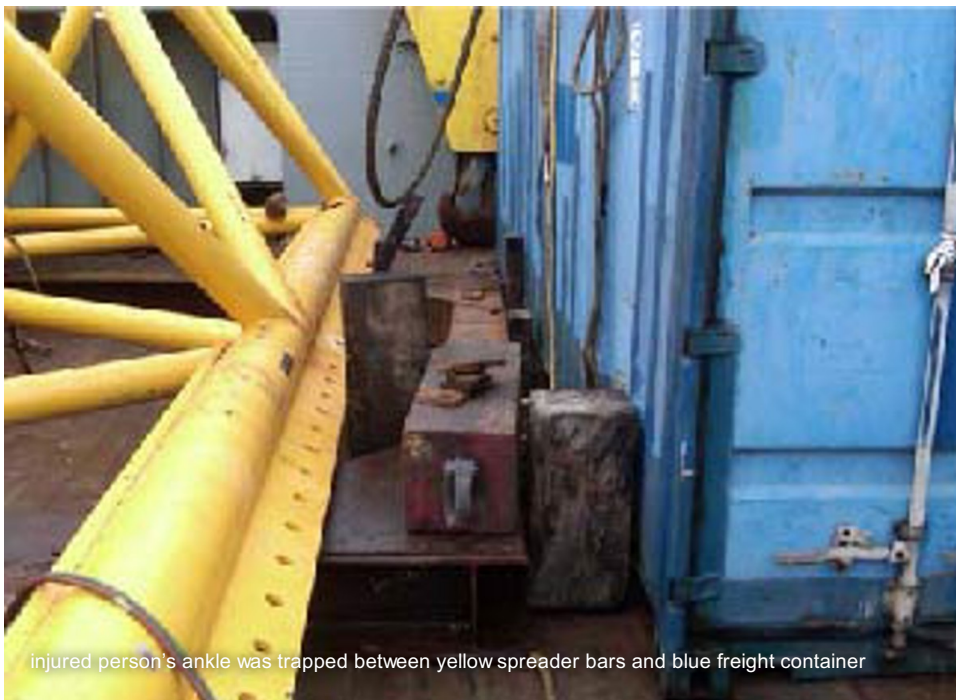
Whilst working on offloading a vessel, the sub-contract employee's left leg above the ankle was pinned between a shifting spreader bar frame and a freight container located adjacent to the spreader bar frame.

While one of the seven spreader bars was being lifted and in the air the remaining bars shifted, causing the frame to slide approximately one metre (40 inches) towards the freight container where the employee was standing.

Hydraulic power packs were used to help free the trapped employee, who was taken to the local hospital. The employee suffered a hairline fracture of the left ankle and the incident was categorised as an LTI.



injured person's ankle was trapped between yellow spreader bars and blue freight container



What were the causes?

Following investigation, the company noted that:

- The supervisor in charge did not follow in-house job safety analysis procedures.
- The sub-contractor personnel were not required to follow in-house job safety analysis procedures.
- The sub-contractor did not provide the specified fully trained personnel but rather a general labourer.

Actions

The company implemented the following actions to prevent recurrence:

- Installation of clips to secure the load frames to the deck and installed additional safety stops on the load frames to hold the spreader bars from moving.
- Audit of training records of all sub-contractor personnel in order to ensure that personnel without proven competence or proper training were not accepted for work.
- The sub-contractor was asked to provide full training for all contract personnel, which should be:
 - appropriate to the work being performed
 - compliant with local regulatory safety standards

- fully verifiable through testing.
- Senior leadership would provide clear guidance to supervisory personnel that safety processes and procedures could not be cut short.

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